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Bland's Report concerning Chile.

The readers of the National Register have already been furnished with the reports of Mr. RODNEY and Mr. GRAHAM, relative to the actual situation of Buenos Ayres and the United and Independent Provinces of La Plata. MR. BLAND has also made an official statement respecting the same provinces, together with a report concerning Chile and his mission thither, which the President communicated to Congress on the 15th instant.

We have not been enabled, this week, to introduce into our pages either of these latter documents in whole or in part: but a friend, who has read with attention the report concerning Chile, has favored us with an accurate abstract of its contents, which we have now the pleasure of laying before our numerous patrons.

Mr. Bland, it will be recollected, was, in pursuance of instructions from the President, left by his colleagues, Mr. Rodney and Mr. Graham, at Buenos Ayres; whence, on the 15th of April, 1818, he departed for Chile, and, on the 26th of the same month, arrived at Mendoza, on the eastern side of the Andes, having travelled, by the way of the post-road, a distance of about 900 miles. He left Mendoza on the 29th of April, and, crossing the Andes, reached Santiago de Chile on the 5th of May: the whole route being, perhaps, about 1200 miles. At this latter place Mr. Bland presented himself to Don Antonio Jose Irisarri, secretary of state, through whom he obtained an interview with Don Bernardo O'Higgins, the supreme director of Chile.—He was received with much cordiality by the director, with whom he had, at different times, very interesting conversations, touching the present and future probable condition of Chile and the friendly sentiments which the United States entertained towards that country.

In the several interviews which Mr. Bland had with the supreme director, he represented to him the good disposition which the government of the United States cherished towards the independent authorities of Chile and the cause in which they were engaged; the sympathy which the free citizens of North America felt for the sufferings of those who were contending for liberty and emancipation from the yoke of Old Spain

in the southern part of the American continent; and pourtrayed to him the benefits to be derived from the establishment of the representative system by the immediate formation of a Congress.

To these observations O'Higgins answered, that he was not insensible to the friendship of the United States; that it was his intention to institute a free government as soon as Chile was entirely freed of her enemies and sufficiently tranquillized for the purpose; but that the present moment was inauspicious for the commencement of so great a work; that, in times of public peril, the presence of a congress had been found extremely pernicious; that Mexico had been lost by a congress; that the congress of Venezuela once lost that country; and that Buenos Ayres had been endangered by a congress; lately, indeed, he admitted, the latter had learnt to act more in concert and with greater propriety.

The supreme director having intimated that it was expected the United States would recognise the independence of Chile, and that the Chileans would grant special favors, in commerce, to the nation, (and it would be gratifying if the United States should be the nation,) first making such recognition; Mr. Bland replied that the single object of his mission was to make inquiry as to the true posture of affairs in Chile; that the United States would be thankful for any favors of the kind, but that they did not ask for them; that all they desired was to be put on a footing with other nations, and were willing to rely, as to any advantages in commerce and navigation, on the skill and industry of their merchants and seamen; that he had repaired to Santiago in order to procure, upon the spot, accurate knowledge of the country, of its institutions, and of its capacities in peace and in war; that the government of the United States only wished to see its way clearly, and would make no improper use of this information; and that any particulars communicated to him from authority might be considered as confidential, or otherwise, just as the supreme director might deem most proper.

The supreme director, O'Higgins, admitted the propriety of authentic information in order that the government of the United States might act intelligently with regard to South American affairs, and told Mr. Bland that he would cause an official statement to be made out respecting the condition and resources of Chile and placed in his hands for that purpose; which promise the supreme director complied with. The statement makes a part of Mr. Bland's report concerning Chile.

During the intercourse between Mr. Bland and O'Higgins, the former explained to the latter the motives which actuated the President in the seizure of Amelia Island and in driving the banditti from Galvezton; and told him that the freebooters who had been forced from those places were not the only armed vessels whose officers and crews had interrupted the lawful commerce of the United States, for that some of the privateers cruising under regular Patriot commissions had committed depredations upon their trade; that the United States would, at all hazards, defend the fair traffic of their citizens; and that they would do so, even against the Chileans, however painful it might be to crush in the germ a growing intimacy between the two people, and which promised to be in the sequel fruitful of benefits to them both.

O'Higgins did not even know where Amelia Island and Galvezton were situated, until Mr. Bland explained the positions to him. He decidedly approved of the conduct of the President in driving off the pirates from thence, inasmuch as it tended to preserve the character of the Patriot cause from imputations of an injurious nature: he had heard of outrages committed by private armed vessels sailing under some of the independent flags of South America; but that whatever might have been the behavior of the vessels acting under commissions from other states, no charge of the kind could justly be brought against the Chileans; that, in fact, with the exception of some fishing boats, it was not until very lately that the government of Chile had any vessels of war under its control; and that he had taken great care, by giving proper instructions, and by placing suitable superintending officers on board, to prevent any departure from the rules of naval warfare prescribed by the law of nations.

In one of the conversations which took place, Mr. Bland told the supreme director that, when he was at Rio Janeiro, (where, it will be recollected, the commissioners touched, on their way to Buenos Ayres,) he had learnt, through Mr. Sumter, the minister of the United States, from the Spanish minister resident there, that Great Britain had been induced to take an active part in favor of Old Spain, and had influenced the allied sovereigns of Europe to interpose for the adjustment of differences between her and her colonies; and that the plan of adjustment was to be something like that which had been formerly rejected by the Cortes, and might be found in a work that had been published in England, entitled "An Outline of the Revolution in Spanish America."

At first, O'Higgins did not believe in the truth of the information which Mr. Bland had received;

he said the British would hardly do so, as they wanted the commerce of Spanish America: but shortly after meeting with him again, the supreme director said he was then convinced of it; for he had seen captain Shirriff, of the British frigate *Andromache*, in Santiago, who told him that he had in his possession papers on the subject, with which he was going to Lima, in Peru. O'Higgins further remarked that all attempts to reconcile the South Americans, short of the acknowledgment of their independence, would be fruitless; and that a return to allegiance under the government of Old Spain was wholly out of the question.

On the 9th of July Mr. Bland, having received the statistical information which the supreme director had promised him, took leave of him and of the Secretary of State Irisarri. O'Higgins expressed his intention of writing a letter to the President; but whether he did so or not, Mr. Bland has not distinctly related.

On the 10th of July Mr. Bland left Santiago de Chile: on the 11th he arrived in Valparaiso; and on the 15th of July he sailed thence in the brig *America*, captain Daniel Rea, and arrived, by the way of Cape Horn, at Philadelphia, on the 29th of October, 1818.

The narrative of Mr. Bland's communications with the Supreme Director forms but a small portion of his Report concerning Chile. He furnishes in addition a very copious description of that region of our hemisphere, in which he, now and then, lets his fancy get the better of his judgment. But from the mass of pages which he has written, circumstances of a highly interesting complexion may be selected.

From Mr. Bland's account it would seem that Chile is a country, (excluding the Magellanic Tract, or New Chile,) of about 1,000 miles in extent on the seacoast; that it has many excellent ports convenient for foreign trade; that it is a country fruitful in grain, wine, and oil, and productive in gold, silver, copper, and tin; that it is destined to be the granary of that part of the world; that its population is about 1,200,000 souls; that 300,000 of these are under the dominion of the Patriots, the remainder being under the jurisdiction of the royalists; that there are about 50,000 Indian slaves in all Chile; and but very few slaves of the African race. All the mechanical arts and agriculture are in a rude state, and the roads and pathways in a neglected condition. The principal articles of export are the metals already mentioned, together with wheat, flour, hemp, cordage, hides, tallow, jerked beef, vecunia, guanaca, chinchilla skins, figs, raisins, &c. Of 4,000,000 of dollars worth of imports in the course of the last year, two millions in value were from England, one from the United States, and one from Buenos

Ayres. The articles furnished from the United States are chiefly tobacco, Windsor chairs, saddlery, and furniture. Of European commodities, Mr. Bland thinks the manufactures of France and Germany are preferred. The stocks of cattle are numerous and fine; the horses are active, spirited, serviceable, and cheap; but the mules are the common beasts of burden. The soil and climate of Chile are different in different places; from the Straits of Chacao to the river Biobio, it is woody, fertile and salubrious, and is inhabited by the Araucanians, or natives: from the Biobio to the river Maule, the country is the same, but the population is Spanish; from the Maule to the Aconcagua, still fertile but no forests: from the valley of Aconcagua the mine country presents itself, which is less fruitful on the surface: after the mine country, the dreary desert of Atacama, upwards of 300 miles in extent, affords a protection to the Chileans from any invasion by land from Peru. From the Straits of Chacao to the river Maule it rains at any season: at Santiago de Chile there is no rain for seven months in the year; and beyond Copiapo rains are hardly known. Mr. Bland divides the country into two regions—the one variable and humid, and the other invariable and dry. Fuel, in some parts, is scarce; but it is said there is plenty of pit-coal on the banks of the Biobio, near Concepcion. The Archipelago of Ancud, or Chiloe, contains forty-seven islands: It is a considerable fishery, and will be a nursery for seamen. There are only three carriage roads in all Chile. The fertile part of the soil is situated in valleys, surrounded, for the most part, by hills and mountains; and the inhabitants of these valleys communicate with each other principally by mule paths. Mr. Bland describes the people generally as being "mild, amiable, brave, and uninformed." Santiago is the capital, and contains about 40,000 souls. The royalists have possession of Penco, and a considerable district around Concepcion, which is their stronghold: they retain, also, Valdivia and Chiloe. The Patriot army, at a medium, (for Mr. Irisarri and Mr. Bland differ on this point,) is about 6,000 strong; 2,000 of which are negroes from Buenos Ayres; there are no Chilean officers in it, however, above the rank of captain, with the exception of O'Higgins, who is a brigadier under San Martin, and colonel Raymon Freyre. The navy consists of but three or four indifferent vessels; but would be increased by the addition of two new ships of war, to be called San Martin and Chacabuco, built at New York, and for which purpose Messrs. Aguirre and Gomez were, a considerable time since, sent to the United States from Buenos Ayres with money. A superior naval force is indispensable to enable the Chileans to invade Peru, for the de-

sart of Atacama prevents them from marching thither by land. The Chileans have no seamen of their own.

The revenue of the government in Chile is derived from duties on imports and exports; from an excise which is laid upon almost every thing that is sold; from a direct tax, the mines, papal bulls, printed indulgences for the living and the dead, a crusade tax, tythes, forfeited estates of the Jesuits, voluntary contributions, and from confiscated estates of the enemies of the Patriot cause. The officers of the customs and the judges of the commercial courts receive no regular salaries, and a duty is imposed on merchandise to compensate them; in addition, traders quicken their exertions by presents or bribes. There are 10,000 monks and nuns in the country. The church holds one-third of the landed property of the state. The church lands are farmed out to tenants, who let them again to under-tenants, and these last work them with slaves: thus three sets of idlers are supported upon the product of the industry of the laboring class. In addition to their landed estates, the religious institutions have what are called their censos, or money lent out at an interest of five per cent. per annum, to the amount of ten millions of dollars. Besides their share of the tythes, which the state still permits them to draw, the clergy have the annats, or first fruits, which yield to each curate between two and three hundred dollars per annum.

The government of Chile, it seems, is needy, and has made some progress towards laying hands on the enormous property of the priests. Indeed, neither monks or nuns, according to Mr. Bland, are treated with much ceremony: some of the former have been turned out of their dwelling-places, which have been occupied for military purposes; and some of them have been tried for treasonable practices.

The most immediately interesting part of the report is that which gives the history of the Chilean revolution and the change of parties among the Patriots. There have, it appears, been two powerful factions in that country of the revolutionists themselves. At the head of one were the Carreras: the Larrains formed the other, with O'Higgins at their head. At the beginning of the contest for independence, the Carrera faction prevailed. It would seem, however, that this party did not manage affairs in a judicious manner; for, at the battle of Rancagua, against the royalists, fought on the 2d of October, 1814, the Patriots were entirely defeated, and fled over the Andes. They were rallied at Mendoza by San Martin, who identified himself with the Larrain faction, and having obtained a reinforcement of 2,000 negroes from Buenos Ayres, crossed the

mountains, and, on the 12th of February, 1816, fought the battle of Chacabuco, defeated the royalists, and took their commander Marco prisoner. This may be called the second epoch of the revolution in Chile. The Carrera party was, of course, put down, and the Larrains, with O'Higgins as chief, confirmed themselves in power by the victory of Maypu, obtained on the 5th of April, 1818, with the particulars of which the reader is no doubt well acquainted. It is greatly to the dishonor of the Larrains that they seized this moment of success to put to death two of the most distinguished of the Carreras. They were sacrificed under judicial forms, and on the pretext of treason. Their execution was a foul and bloody murder, to gratify the vengeance of the reigning faction.

The closest intimacy subsists between the governments of Chile and Buenos Ayres. O'Higgins told Mr. Bland that there was nothing which Buenos Ayres could ask of Chile that would not be granted; and that Buenos Ayres would act in like manner towards Chile. All the inhabitants of Buenos Ayres are naturalized citizens of Chile. The supreme director, by way of characterizing the intimacy, said they were as two bodies actuated by one soul. Mr. Bland thinks, however, that this connexion is to the disadvantage of the Chileans, and conceives that it will not be lasting.

Under the faction of the Carreras, at the commencement of the revolution, the press, for the first time, was introduced into Chile. Before that period all books and papers, prior to their entrance into the country, were inspected and approved by the holy inquisition in Spain or at Lima. The name of the first paper was the *Aurora*. It was printed weekly, at a printing-office sent from New York, and managed by three citizens of the United States. It was edited by Camilla Henriquez, now of Buenos Ayres. The opposite party also published a paper, which they called the *Arauco*. It was edited by Irisarri. At this time there are four weekly papers issued at Santiago; and none are published any where else in Chile: their names are, *The Ministerial Gazette*, which is the acknowledged paper of the government; *El Argos*, *El Duende*, and *El Sol*. They are all printed at the same press; and are edited by clerks and officers of the government. Two other printing presses had been carried thither for sale; but they were not saleable articles. Newspapers and pamphlets are conveyed free of postage, and books are imported free of duty.

The reader may recollect that, after the battle of Maypu, the viceroy of Peru was desirous of effecting an exchange of prisoners, and sent, on board the United States' sloop of war *Ontario*, captain Biddle, from Lima, an officer to Valpa-

raiso and Santiago for the purpose. It turned out, however, on investigation, that the Royalists had few or no Chilean prisoners; those which they formerly had, having been confined in one of the islands of the Archipelago of Chiloe, were released by the Patriots after the battle of Chacabuco. The Patriots, on the contrary, had about 8,000 Royalists prisoners; and were willing they should be exchanged for any prisoners which the Royalists held belonging to Buenos Ayres; but, owing to some contempt manifested in relation to the Patriot authorities, no cartel was agreed upon.

Incidentally speaking of Peru, Mr. Bland states that one-third of the population of that country are whites of unmixed blood, and two-thirds mulattoes and negroes; the latter, in general, as well informed as the whites.

INDIAN TRADE.

Report from the War Department.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
December 5, 1818.

Sir,—In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 4th of April, 1818, directing the Secretary of War to prepare and report, at their next session, "a system providing for the abolition of the existing Indian Trade Establishments of the United States, and providing for the opening of the Trade with the Indians to Individuals, under suitable regulations," I have the honor to make the following report:

The nations of Indians who inhabit this portion of our continent, were, on its first discovery, in a state of the most perfect commercial independence. Their knowledge of the useful arts was, indeed, very limited; but it was commensurate with their wants and desires. With their rude implements of husbandry, their hook, and bow, in the construction of which they were well instructed, they drew a scanty, but for them a sufficient, supply from the soil, the water, and the forest. A great change has since taken place, such as appears to be inevitable, by a fixed law of nature, in the intercourse between a civilized and savage people. Helplessness has succeeded independence. While their wants have been greatly multiplied and enlarged, by their intercourse with their more civilized neighbors, their knowledge even of their former rude arts has been lost, without acquiring those which are necessary in their new condition. The manufacture of the axe and the hoe, by which they now clear and cultivate the soil, and the gun and ammunition by which they take their game, are far above their skill; and with the exhaustion of the present stock, without a new supply, they would be reduced to extreme want. On trade, then, with those from whom they can draw these and other supplies, they are wholly dependent. We have the exclusive right to trade with those within our limits; and cut off, as the northern tribes are, by our acquisition in the late war, from intercourse with foreigners on the side of the Gulf of Mexico, we have the means, by a proper extension of our posts, on the lakes, the Mississippi, and the Missouri, (to effect which, measures have already been taken) to enforce effectually, without much additional expense, this important right. The pe-

rod seems then to have arrived, to give to our control over the Indians, through an exclusive supply of their wants, the greatest efficiency; and to promote theirs and our interest, by a judicious system of trade, fairly and justly directed.

A similar view of this branch of our trade seems to have been taken at an early period by our government. It directed its attention to this interesting and important subject, as early as the year 1775, when a committee was appointed by Congress to devise a plan for carrying on trade with the Indians. In the next year a very considerable purchase of goods was directed to be made for the Indian trade, and trade with them, except under license or bond, was strictly prohibited. The subject was frequently acted on during the confederation; but no systematic effort was made to regulate it till 1786, when an ordinance was passed, dividing the Indian department into two districts, and appointing a superintendent, with a deputy to each. It was made their duty to execute such regulations as Congress might establish in relation to Indian affairs; to correspond with the Secretary of War, through whom their communications were directed to be made to Congress; to obey the instructions of the War Department; and to grant license to trade with Indians. This ordinance directed that no license should be granted to foreigners, and only to citizens whose good moral character should be certified by the governor of a state, under the seal of the state, and that bonds should be given to conform to established regulations. Licenses were granted, to continue in force for one year only, and upon the payment of fifty dollars. To trade without license incurred a penalty of five hundred dollars, and forfeiture of goods. The superintendents and their deputies were prohibited from engaging in trade.

The change in the form of the government, a few years after the passing of this ordinance, and the debility into which public affairs fell, about the termination of the confederation, prevented this judicious system from being carried into effect.

Under the present constitution, the subject of Indian trade attracted the attention of Congress, as early as the year 1790. The system of trade by licenses was retained: they were directed to be granted for two years, by persons to be appointed by the President, to applicants of good character, who gave bonds to conform to regulations; and trading without license was subjected to a forfeiture of merchandise. The act contains no prohibitions to foreigners, and requires nothing to be paid for the licenses. In the years 1793 and 1796, acts were passed, very similar in their provisions to the one just recited; and in the year 1802, an act repealing former acts, and which still continues in force, was passed. It inflicts a fine of one hundred dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, in addition to the forfeiture of goods, for trading without license; and directs licenses to be granted on bond, with sufficient security to conform to law and regulations, without making a good character, or citizenship, a requisite.

By an act of 1816, the last passed on this subject, foreigners are prohibited from trading with the Indians, except permitted by the President, and under such regulations as he should establish. Instructions have been given under this act to prohibit foreigners from passing into the Indian coun-

try, except as boatmen, and, under certain conditions, as interpreters.

The system of trade by public factors, now proposed to be abolished, commenced in the year 1796; but without superseding the original mode of carrying on the trade by license. The President was authorized to establish trading houses, and to appoint an agent to each house to carry on, as the act states, "a liberal trade with the Indians." The act appropriated \$150,000, as the capital of this trade, and the additional sum of \$8,000 annually for the payment of agents and clerks; and directed the trade to be carried on, so as not to diminish the capital. It was limited to two years; but was by a subsequent act continued in force till 1806. A Superintendent of Indians was then appointed, and the capital increased to \$260,000, and \$13,000 was annually appropriated for the payment of superintendent, agents, and clerks. This act was limited to three years; but afterwards continued in force till 1811. The capital was then increased to three hundred thousand dollars, with an annual appropriation of \$19,250 for the payment of superintendent, agents, and clerks. It was limited to three years; but has been extended by subsequent acts to the first of March next.

The capital at present is distributed among eight trading houses, or factories, established at the following places: Fort Mitchell; the Chickasaw Bluffs; Fort Confederation, on the Tombigbee; Fort Osage, on the Missouri; Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi; Sulphur Fork, on Red River; Green Bay, and Chicago.

Such is the rise, progress, and present condition of our Indian trade. It was commenced and has been continued from motives both of prudence and humanity; and though it may not have fully realized the expectations of its friends, it has no doubt produced beneficial effects. If wars have not been entirely prevented by it, they probably, without it, would have been more frequent; and, if the Indians have made but little advances in civilization, they probably without it would have made less. If greater effects have not resulted, it is to be attributed not to a want of dependence on the part of the Indians on commercial supplies, but to defects in the system itself, or in its administration. Scarcely any attempt has been made till lately to exclude foreigners, and the granting of licenses has not been subject to those checks which are necessary to give to it the most salutary effects.

Should it be thought unadvisable to continue the present trading system by factories, by permitting the act to expire, by its limitation, on the first of March next, it will then of course terminate. In winding up its concerns, two points are to be regarded; to sustain as little loss as possible; and to withdraw from the trade gradually, in order that the capital employed may be supplied from other sources. To effect both of these objects, I would suggest, that so much of the act of 1811, as authorizes the appointment of a superintendent and factors, be continued in force for one year; and that they be authorized to make sales, as heretofore, of the goods and effects on hand, and those which may be acquired from the Indians.

The superintendent of Indian trade should also be authorized and directed to exhibit at his office, for inspection, an inventory of the stock in trade, with the property attached to the respective fac-

toes; and he should be directed to sell the same on the best terms offered, provided the sales can be effected at cost and charges. It would be proper to allow considerable credit upon approved bonds and security; and the President ought to be empowered to annex, as the condition of the sale, if he should think it advisable to sell the goods to the Indians, at the place at which the factory is established, a provision that the sales be effected within the period of one year. The factory at Fort Clark, being established by a treaty with the Great and Little Osages in the year 1808 must be continued by the government, or sold out, subject to the condition of being continued so long as the Indians may desire it. It would perhaps be advisable to direct a new treaty, rescinding, on suitable compensation, the stipulation referred to.

The establishment would by these means terminate gradually, without the hazard of any considerable losses.

To provide for opening the trade to individuals, under suitable regulations, is a task of much greater difficulty. The vast extent of the country inhabited by the Indians, and the numbers and variety of the tribes, render it impossible to apply, with propriety, any uniform system to the whole. The various tribes, for the purpose of trade, may, however, be comprehended in two classes. Those in our immediate neighborhood, surrounded by our settlements and our military posts, and who, from long intercourse with us, have become partially civilized; and those more remote, who still retain their original character and customs. In the former are comprehended the four southern tribes, the Osages and the small tribes immediately west of the Mississippi, those within the limits of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and that part of the Michigan territory east of lake Michigan. The latter comprehends all the tribes without those limits. I propose to consider the system of trade best calculated for each division, beginning with the former.

After giving the subject that full consideration which its importance merits, it appears to me that the provisions of the ordinance of 1786, with a few additions and modifications, particularly in the administrative part, so as to adjust it to our present form of government, are, for this division of our Indian trade, the best that can be devised. The provisions of the acts now in force, in relation to licenses, are not as well guarded or as efficient as those of the ordinance referred to. The introduction of the factories seem to have relaxed the attention of government to the system of trade under license. I would then propose to assume the provisions of the ordinance referred to, as the basis of a system to open the trade with the contiguous tribes of Indians, to individual enterprise. Instead, however, of appointing two superintendents, I would propose a superintendent of Indian affairs to be attached to the War Department, with a salary of \$3,000 per annum; the superintendent to be under the control of the Secretary of War, and to be charged, subject to such regulations as the President may prescribe, with the correspondence, superintendence, and general management of Indian affairs; and to be authorized, with the approbation of the Secretary of War, to grant license to trade with the Indians. Licenses to be granted to citizens of good moral character, and to continue in force till revoked. A sum not less than 100 dollars, nor more than

500 dollars, to be determined under regulations to be prescribed by the President, to be paid, for the privilege of using it, at the time of granting the license, and annually during its continuance; and bonds with sufficient security to be taken, to conform to law and regulations. Licenses to be revoked by the President whenever he may judge proper. To trade without license to subject to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, and imprisonment not to exceed six months, with a forfeiture of the goods. Licenses to be granted to trade at specified places, to be selected by the applicants, and not to be changed without the consent of the superintendent. All peddling and sales of spirituous liquors to be strictly prohibited. Each trading house, or establishment, to require a separate license; and books to be kept at the establishment, in which the prices of the goods sold, and the articles purchased, should be regularly and fairly entered, and be subject at all times to the inspection of the Indian agent, or such person as the superintendent may appoint.

The reasons for most of these provisions are so obvious as to require no illustration. They will all be passed over, accordingly, without observation, except the provision which requires the payment of an annual sum for the use of license, and that which requires the trading establishment to be fixed. The former provision is taken from the ordinance of 1786, which directed licenses to be granted for one year only, and on payment of fifty dollars to the superintendent, for the use of the United States; a sum nearly equal to that now proposed, if the value of money at that time be taken into consideration.

But it will probably be objected, that it is our interest, and, as we propose to monopolize their trade, our duty too, to furnish the Indians with goods on as moderate terms as possible; and that the sum to be paid for a license, by acting as a duty on the goods sold under it, will tend to enhance their price. In answer to which, it may be justly observed, that it is not a matter of so much importance that they should obtain their supplies for a few cents more or less, as that the trade should, as far as practicable, be put effectually under the control of the government, in order that they may be protected against the fraud and the violence to which their ignorance and weakness would, without such protection, expose them. It is this very ignorance and weakness which render it necessary for the government to interfere; and if such interference is proper at all, it ought to be rendered effectual. Such will be the tendency of this provision. Its first and obvious effects will be to diminish more certainly, and with less injurious effect, than any other provision which can be devised, the number of traders; and to increase the amount of capital which each would employ. The profit of a small capital of a few hundred dollars would scarcely pay for the license; while that on a large one would not be much diminished by it. Both of these effects, the diminution of the number of traders and the increase of the capital, would add greatly to the control of the government over the trade. It would be almost impossible to inspect the conduct, and consequently control the actions of the multitude of traders, with small capitals, diffused over the Indian country, and settled at remote and obscure places. The greatest vigilance, on the part of the superintendent and his agents, would be unequal to the task. By diminishing the number, and

bringing each more permanently before the view of the government, a due inspection and superintendence becomes practicable. Again: what control can the government have over the conduct of a trader with a capital of a few hundred dollars only? Suppose he should violate the express injunctions of law and regulations, what serious loss would he sustain by the revocation of his license, or by the putting his bond in suit? To him it would be nothing to wind up his business and give his capital another direction; and as to the bond, in such distant and obscure transactions, he might pretty safely calculate on escaping its penalty. Very different would be the case with the trader of a large capital. To revoke his license would be a serious evil, which must subject him to certain loss; and, should he break the conditions of his bond, he would be much more in danger of feeling its penalty. The control of the government would not only be greater over such traders, but, what is of equal importance, their influence with the Indians would have a more salutary direction. A war between them and us would, in all cases, be injurious, and, in many cases, would be ruinous to the trader of a large capital; but not so with one of small capital; a single profitable speculation may be of more importance to him than the continuance of peace. From the effects of war he can as easily escape as from the revocation of his license, or the penalty of his bond. Let the character of the former be what it may, he must, from interest, be the advocate of peace, and the influence of his own government; while the latter, unless influenced by virtuous motives, would feel in either but little interest.

From the nature of the trade, the more it can be concentrated, provided there is reasonable competition, the better it will be for the Indians and ourselves. The very opposite, it is true, would be the fact, if they had the capacity and intelligence to take care of their own interest without our protection; but, situated as they are, indefinite competition would be no less injurious to them than to our citizens; and such appear to be their sentiments. The Chickasaws, in a late treaty, complained of the injury which they had sustained from pedlars and small traders; and they had a stipulation inserted, against the granting of any license trade with their nation, as the only effectual means which suggested itself to prevent it.

The reasons for fixing the trading establishment are no less strong. By rendering them stationary, and compelling the proprietors to keep books, containing regular entries of all their sales and purchases, important checks will be presented to prevent fraud and exorbitant charges. It will also strongly tend to prevent collision between the traders, and consequently the creation of parties among the Indians, for or against particular traders; a state of things unfriendly to their interest, and dangerous to the peace of the frontier. Besides, the trading establishments being fixed, as they will be, in the most advantageous positions, each will, in time, become the nucleus of Indian settlements, which, by giving greater density and steadiness to their population, will tend to introduce a division of real property, and thus hasten their ultimate civilization.

Such are the provisions under which the trade with those tribes of Indians in our immediate neighborhood may with safety and advantage be opened to individual enterprise. With a vigilant

administration, it will produce results equally salutary to the Indians and ourselves. In fact, the knowledge of the use of money, and the prices of most of the ordinary articles of trade, is so far advanced among them, as to guard them, to a considerable extent, against mere fraud and imposition; and with the control which the government may exercise over the trade with them, they would generally receive their supplies on fair and moderate terms. The system is not less calculated to secure peace. The regular traders, who have paid for the use of their licenses, will be the most active to prevent vexatious peddling and retailing of spirituous liquors, which are the bane of the frontier. They will, besides, become the most active promoters of industry, for the almost total destruction of game has rendered the amount of peltries and furs of little value in this branch of Indian trade, and the capacity of paying for the goods purchased must, consequently, in a great measure, depend on the product of the soil. In fact, the neighboring tribes are becoming daily less warlike, and more helpless and dependent on us through their numerous wants, and they are rendered still more pacific by the fear of forfeiting their lands and annuities. They have, in a great measure, ceased to be an object of terror, and have become that of commiseration. The time seems to have arrived, when our policy towards them should undergo an important change. They neither are in fact, nor ought to be, considered as independent nations. Our views of their interest, and not their own, ought to govern them. By a proper combination of force and persuasion, of punishments and rewards, they ought to be brought within the pales of law and civilization. Left to themselves, they will never reach that desirable condition. Before the slow operation of reason and experience can convince them of its superior advantages, they must be overwhelmed by the mighty torrent of our population. Such small bodies, with savage customs and character, cannot, and ought not, to be permitted to exist in an independent condition in the midst of civilized society. Our laws and manners ought to supersede their present savage manners and customs. Beginning with those most advanced in civilization, and surrounded by our people, they ought to be made to contract their settlements within reasonable bounds, with a distinct understanding, that the United States intended to make no further acquisition of land from them, and that the settlements reserved are intended for their permanent home. The land ought to be divided among families, and the idea of individual property in the soil carefully inculcated. Their annuities would constitute an ample school fund, and education, comprehending as well the common arts of life, as reading, writing, and arithmetic, ought not to be left discretionary with the parents. Those who might not choose to submit, ought to be permitted and aided in forming new settlements at a distance from ours. When sufficiently advanced in civilization, they would be permitted to participate in such civil and political rights, as the respective states within whose limits they are situated, might safely extend to them. It is only by causing our opinion of their interest to prevail, that they can be civilized, and saved from extinction. Under the present policy, they are continually decreasing and degenerating, notwithstanding the government has, under all its administrations, been actuated

by the most sincere desire to promote their happiness and civilization. The fault has been, not in the want of zeal, but in the mode in which it has been attempted to effect these desirable objects. The Indians are not so situated as to leave it to time and experience to effect their civilization. By selecting prudently the occasion for the change, by establishing a few essential regulations, and by appointing persons to administer them fairly and honestly, our efforts could scarcely fail of success. Nor ought it to be feared that the power would be abused on our part, for, in addition to the dictates of benevolence, we have a strong interest in their civilization. The enmity even of the frontier settlers towards them, is caused principally by the imperfection of the present system; and, under the one which I have suggested, it will greatly abate, if not entirely subside. The natural humanity and generosity of the American character would no longer be weakened by the disorder and savage cruelty to which our frontiers are now exposed. A deep conviction of the importance of the subject, and a strong desire to arrest the current of events which, if permitted to flow in their present channel, must end in the annihilation of those who were once the proprietors of this prosperous country, must be my apology for this digression.

It remains to consider in what manner our trade can be most successfully prosecuted with the numerous Indian tribes who occupy the vast region extending west to the Pacific Ocean. It is obvious that the system proposed for the partially civilized tribes, bordering on our settlements, would prove altogether inadequate to this branch of our Indian trade. It will require a system of far more energy to effect the great objects which ought to be pursued through it. To establish a decided control over the numerous and savage tribes within these vast limits, and to give to our trade with them its utmost extension, are deemed to be objects of great national importance. It is believed, that within our limits, along the range of the Rocky Mountain, quite to the Mexican frontier, is the best region for furs and peltries on this continent. With proper efforts, the whole of this valuable trade, extending quite across to the great western ocean, would, in a few years, be exclusively in our possession. To produce these desirable results, foreign adventurers, whose influence must at all times be hostile to our interests, and dangerous to our peace, must be excluded. With this view, and to protect our own trade, means have been taken to extend our military posts on the Mississippi and Missouri. Whatever character our trade in that quarter may assume, the extension of our posts, as contemplated, will be indispensable to its enlarged and successful prosecution; but it is believed that with all the advantages which they will afford, unless the trade be properly and efficiently organized, we shall not be able to compete, with entire success, with the British companies on the north, nor to acquire that decided control over the Indians, which is indispensable to its complete success.

In order to have just ideas on this subject, it is necessary to take into consideration not only the vast extent and remoteness of the region over which it is proposed to extend our trade, but the character of the numerous tribes who inhabit it. They are all more or less migratory; in the summer moving towards the north, and in the winter

to the south, in pursuit of the Buffalo and other game. They are thus, in the summer, brought into the neighborhood of the British establishment to the north of our limits, where, notwithstanding our military posts and the advantage of our position, much of the trade and influence over these fierce and warlike tribes will centre, unless our means of carrying it on should be as well organized and efficient as theirs. The difficulty, though of an opposite kind, is no less considerable on the southern frontier of this portion of our country. The line between us and the Spanish possessions in Mexico is, in its whole extent, a subject of discussion; and, even should it be adjusted, will probably, to a considerable extent, be without natural and visible boundaries. To a trade thus situated, extending over so vast a region, inhabited by numerous tribes not less warlike than savage, with the competition of powerful and long established companies on one side, and danger of collision on the other, the unorganized efforts of individuals always with jarring, and frequently with opposing, interests, appear to be wholly inadequate to its successful or safe prosecution. The rivalry of trade, which, in well regulated communities, gives the greatest prosperity to commerce, would, in these distant regions, beyond the control of law or superior authority, amongst fierce and ignorant savages, lead to the most fatal consequences. Each trader, or association of traders, would endeavor to monopolize the trade within certain limits, and would exert their cunning and influence to render the savages their partisans, and the enemies of their rivals in trade. Among a people at once so fierce and so easily duped, the result may be readily anticipated. A state of disorder and violence would universally prevail, equally unfortunate to the Indians and ourselves; and which would strongly tend to turn the trade, and with it the influence over the Indians, to the well organized foreign fur companies near our limits.

If these observations are correct; if the uncombined efforts of individuals are inadequate to a successful competition with the British fur companies; if they will endanger our peace with our southern neighbors, and lead to fierce and dangerous rivalry among themselves, it only remains to consider whether a mode can be devised of carrying on this branch of our Indian trade, which will obviate these evils, and accomplish the desirable objects of giving the greatest extension to it, accompanied with the most efficient control over the Indians themselves.

The united influence and combined efforts of the fur companies referred to can be met successfully, it is believed, only by an equal concentration of influence, and efforts on our part; the jealous rivalry of independent traders, with its fatal consequences, can be obviated only by removing the diversity of interest by which it would be excited, and the danger of collision, on our southern limits, by subjecting the trade completely to the will and control of the government.—The mode, then, which I would propose, would be to vest the trade in a company with sufficient capital; to be divided into shares of one hundred dollars each; and to be limited to the term of twenty years; to pay an annual tax on its subscribed capital, for the privilege of exclusive trade, and to be subject, in like manner, as private traders, to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed. It is thus that most of the evils to be

apprehended by leaving the trade open to the competition of private adventurers would, it is believed, be avoided. The efforts of the company, undisturbed by rival interests, would be directed to establish its control over the various tribes of Indians—to exclude foreign adventurers, and to give the greatest degree of profit to its trade.—The success of such a company, properly conducted, scarcely admits of a doubt. Our position in regard to this trade; the facility which the navigation of our great and numerous rivers in that quarter would afford; and the protection from our military posts, would speedily destroy all foreign competition, and would, in a few years, push our trade to the Pacific Ocean. The most profitable fur and peltry trade in the world would be ours, accompanied with a decided influence over the numerous and warlike tribes inhabiting those extensive regions. The mere objection, that it would create a monopoly, ought not to outweigh so many advantages. The trade with the Indians has never been opened, without restrictions to our citizens. Licenses from the government have at all times been required, and the government has itself, through its factories, to a considerable extent, monopolized the trade; and, by an extension of its capital only, might engross the whole of it. All of these provisions, however necessary, in the Indian trade, would be absurd in any other branch of our commerce. Besides, the profit of the trade with the Indians has, at all times, been confined to a few individuals; and it is highly probable that a greater portion of the community would participate in it by carrying it on in the manner proposed, than in any other mode. In fact, absurd as commercial monopoly would be, where law and authority exist to repress the mischievous effects which might spring from unbounded rivalry, and give to such rivalry salutary consequences; just in the same degree would it be wise and advantageous to carry on the trade under consideration by an incorporated company. A nation discovers its wisdom no less in departing from general maxims, where it is no longer wise to adhere to them, than in an adherence to them in ordinary circumstances. In fact it evinces a greater effort of reason. The first advance of a nation is marked by the establishment of maxims, which are deemed universal, but which further experience and reflection teach to be only general, admitting of occasional modifications and exceptions.

Should the House, however, not adopt these views, but prefer to open the trade to the enterprise of single individuals, or such associations as might be formed for the purpose, I would suggest the provisions already proposed for the trade with the neighboring tribes of Indians, as the most advisable, with the exception of the provisions, which require the trader to be located, and that regular books of sales and purchases should be kept. In lieu of which provisions, I would propose, that the goods intended for this branch of Indian trade, and the articles acquired by purchase from the Indians, should be entered under oath, the former with a copy of the invoice, and the latter, with a statement of prices, with the Indian agent at Mackinaw, St. Louis, Belle Point, on the Arkansas river, or Natchitoches, on the Red river; or such other places as the President may designate.

The entry can be made without much inconvenience to the trader, as the geography of the

country is such, as to make it necessary for the trade to pass by one or the other of the points proposed, at each of which there is now an agent.

It is believed that these provisions would be as effectual as any that can be devised, short of a company incorporated for the purpose; but it is proper to observe, that they are open to the objections which have already been stated. In fact they equally apply to any system, so long as the trade is exposed to the effects which must flow from the jealous rivalry of independent traders, where law and authority cannot step in to restrain its consequences within proper bounds. The Indians themselves are not proper judges of their own interests, and so far from restraining the effects of such rivalry, they would become the instruments of the most cunning and vicious of the traders, to wreak their vengeance on such as might stand in the way of their profits.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. CALHOUN.

Hon. H. Clay, &c. &c.

From the *New York Evening Post*, Dec. 10th, 1818.
TO THOSE WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

When the United States Bank was chartered, the currency of the country consisted of paper emitted by state banks, who refused to redeem it with coin; and the paper of some of those banks had depreciated twenty or thirty per cent. more than that of others. The necessity for an uniform currency was, in consequence of the inconveniences experienced by this state of things, admitted on all hands; and the advocates for chartering the bank promised that its currency should be of uniform value. But it is inconceivable how any man of sense could have expected that this currency was to be more uniform in its value, than coin itself; yet the disappointment in that ridiculous expectation, has caused much senseless clamour against the bank. All that was meant by the words "equalizing the currency," was, that the bills should be redeemable in coin at the places where they were payable—This is all that the bank is under any obligation to do; and in doing this, the bills are rendered equal to specie where they are issued. Equalizing the exchange is quite a different thing, and must rise and fall according to the course of trade. It is caused by the laws of commerce, as the flowing of tides is by the laws of nature. On this score there is no reason for complaint against the bank. It has sins enough to answer for, in all conscience, without making false accusations. After the investigation is over, which it is about to undergo before the honorable committee of congress, it is hoped they will make known to the stockholders, and to the world, what those sins are: and in order to get at their root, a pretty close scrutiny will be necessary. To account for the embarrassments existing in the monied concerns of the country, and to be sure that they get hold of the right remedy, it is important that they should not mistake the cause. It is believed that they will find it to have originated, in a great measure, in the hard terms held out to the public in the charter. It was the opinion of that able financier, whose loss this country cannot too much deplore, that in granting a charter for a national bank, "unless the interest of the stockholders be consulted, there can be no bank, (in the sense at least in which institutions of this kind worthy of confidence can be established in this country,) but it does not follow (says he) that this

is alone to be consulted, or that it ever ought to be paramount. Public utility is more truly the object of public banks, than private profit." The truth then is, that the terms of this charter did not offer sufficient inducement to the sober and solid capitalist at that time to become a subscriber. Those of that description, who did subscribe, were influenced, not so much by the expectation of profit, as by a desire to form a fund from which might issue a currency always redeemable in coin. By such subscribers a minor part of the capital only was taken: the greater part fell into the hands of adventurers, who by hook and by crook, aided by the credit of *paper money banks*, raised the wind, as we say, for the payment required on making the subscription. By borrowing names, and subscribing in single shares, while the monied men voted on theirs in mass, they obtained a complete power to elect whomever they named as directors. It is to be inferred from what has since taken place, that no greater proportion of sober-minded men were permitted to be members of the board, than were just sufficient to give, by their weight of character, a sort of sanction to their proceedings. These manoeuvres could not have escaped the observation of the hon. James Lloyd, and will sufficiently explain the meaning of the following paragraph in his letter to Mr. Forsyth, (the chairman of a former committee of inquiry into the concerns of the bank.) "It is not to be concealed (says he) that some part of the stock, and that not a small one, is in the possession of those who very fairly mean to make an advantageous use of the confidence they reposed in the good faith and resources of the country over that manifested by others of their fellow-citizens."*

Having by these operations and under the garb of patriotism, got command of the credit of the institution and of the money actually paid in by the real stockholders, the directors proceed to business; and begin by receiving notes from stockholders, to secure the payments already due for their stock, and taking the stock in pledge, *which had not been paid for*, to secure the payment of those notes. So that, instead of aiding mercantile operations with the capital intended for their use, the money of one set of stockholders, who had paid for their stock, was, by another set of stockholders, thus loaned to themselves, to enable the latter to hold stock *which they had not paid for*. And this appears to be the advantageous use which they so *very fairly* meant to make of the confidence they reposed in the good faith and resources of the country. Thus, with the money of the stockholders who had actually paid for their stock, the credit of the bank, and the additional means which the government furnished by the redemption of that part of the capital which consisted in public debt, and with the blandishment about the successful negotiations of their specie ambassador, the master jugglers succeeded in blowing up a bubble, which they had not sense or time enough to put in other hands before it burst. But, to pre-empt as much as possible the explosion, it was deemed of the first importance that the dividends should be undiminished. Therefore, when the secretary of the treasury withdrew the stock part of the capital of the bank, by redeeming it, it became indispensable to supply, by some means, the loss of so great a source of income as the interest on

that debt. Accordingly, instructions, it is said, were issued to the respective branches, permitting, if not requiring, an extension of loans, as fast as practicable, on the best securities they could get: that is, by authorizing loans on the pledge of the stock of the bank, at an advance of 25 per cent.

The facility with which money could be raised on a pledge of stock, induced a host of speculators to come into the market, and, by bidding against each other, to co-operate in furthering the interest of those directors whose fortunes were staked on the risk of the stock. A large proportion of the loans, therefore, were made to stock jobbers, land jobbers, state banks, and others not engaged in trade. This sudden flood of money caused every thing to rise, and especially bank stock. But as soon as the bills passed into the hands of the merchants, who had no dealings with the bank, they returned upon it, accompanied with a demand for specie, to supply the ships fitting out for India, after cotton, because that article had been, by the sudden and excessive issue of bank paper, raised so high in our own country, that the northern merchant could not employ his ship in its transportation without loss. So unaccountably indiscreet (to say the least) has been the management of the directors, *that of forty-one millions loaned out, thirty-seven millions and upwards have been loaned south of New-York; and a great proportion of this to borrowers unable, confessedly, now to pay*.

The pressure of the bank, caused by the return of its paper, compelled it to call for payment on those who were most able. The Boston branch was therefore first sacrificed—New York branch next,—and the screw is now operating at Philadelphia, and further south. The loans to merchants have been reduced to a very inconsiderable sum; whereas, if they had been distributed, with tolerable discretion, amongst that class of men, the exportation of specie might have been instantly checked, the moment it was discovered; and if sent out of the country, the exporter might have been compelled to fetch it back to pay his notes. Importations of specie by the bank, are to no purpose, unless the institution is so managed as to secure it when here.—The restrictions in bank operations, necessary to detain the specie already in the country, will, most assuredly, cause its introduction without their agency. But this power no bank can ever possess, whose business consists in taking pledges of its stock as security for debts, *before the stock is created*, and in discounting notes never to be paid, in order to create such stock. And it behoves the honorable committee, about to examine into the concerns of the bank, to inquire how much of the capital stock, which the law required to be made up of specie and public debt, has been created in this way: and also to inquire further, whether the stock pledged, is not lodged with a power to transfer only, while the credit on the stock books stands in the names borrowed to subscribe in for the purpose of multiplying votes; and whether there be not votes of that description, in the control of those who in fact are not *bona fide* owners of one cent of the capital stock which they are not indebted for, sufficient to put in any direction they please; extending their inquiry on this point (particularly as to the operations of the branch at Baltimore,) so as to be able to report satisfactorily to the stockholders, and to the government, if the truth will warrant it, that

* In justice to Mr. Lloyd, it is proper to remark, that it has never been supposed that he sanctioned any of the measures which are the subject of these strictures.

all is fair.—If the government had understood and duly consulted its own interest in the formation of the bank, by making it the interest of men of capital to invest their money in it, to be loaned out to those actively employed in some useful pursuit, and sufficient to have yielded a dividend of 6 1-2 to 7 per cent. a year, with a circulation so restricted as to preserve its own and the public credit, the bank might have proved an honor to the country, and a blessing to the union. But the government, by making too sharp a bargain with the stockholders, have tempted men to engage in the bank who had no property, and who could not without an abuse of its credit profit by the speculation.

It is believed that the causes of the present embarrassment of the bank, have been now traced to their true origin.

It is desired, if this reasoning be incorrect, that the hon. committee will detect its fallacy, and show what are the real causes of the embarrassments complained of: and show if they can, that they are not attributable to the mismanagement of the concerns of the bank. It is the opinion of the best informed men, that unless the bank compel, by its future operations, the actual payment of its capital stock, and thereby form a fund for the basis of a paper currency, redeemable in coin, which paper currency the directors can increase or diminish at pleasure in such proportion as will introduce and detain a sufficient amount of metallic money in the country to insure its redemption, whenever demanded, it will inflict a curse upon the nation, which ages of repentance cannot do away.

It is to be hoped that the government will not be cajoled into any wild expedients, to aid a set of men who have involved themselves and the country in difficulty, by blowing up a bubble which they must surely have expected would have burst in the hands of their innocent and credulous fellow men, especially when they have so far abused their trust as to use the funds of the bank for this purpose, which had been put into their hands for objects of public utility.

All that is necessary now to be done to restore order and credit, and to cause the return of specie to the country, is to enforce the payments due on a pledge of the stock, and let those who cannot pay for what they hold transfer it to those who can; for they only who can pay for stock can furnish money to lend to others.

The immunity which the law gives to the private property of the stockholder is in consideration of his actually putting into the bank, agreeable to that law, the sum he subscribes, any evasion of the law heretofore practised notwithstanding. If I repeat, in the present instance such payments had been enforced, and in the outset a prudent and cautious policy observed in the extension of its credit, the bank at this time would have been in possession of the most ample supply of coin, having a regulating power perfect and complete over the operations of all the minor banks, and over our foreign exchange.

NECKER.

HUMOR.

[The following report of a judicial decision is in the very best style of the Anglo-Batavica. If all litigants were as frank, and all justices as equita-

ble, our courts of minor magistracy would not be so much crowded with cases.]

From the Albany Gazette.

MR. PRINTER,—If you think the following short report of a law case, determined in the early administration of justice, under "the act for the settlement of the courts of justice," passed 1st November, 1683, taken verbatim from the minutes of the court, will light up a smile in the pale face of any of the profession, in this the day of their adversity, I need not address an argument to your benevolence to give it an immediate insertion. A.

Hons Von Knippenbergh,

kinst

Stoffle Freekhouse.

Parties called.

Hons Von Knippenbergh—Here I pe.

Stoffle Freekhouse—Here, here.

Justice.—Well, Hons—de kort is now open.—For why you call me here—what you kot kinst Stoffle?

Hons.—Well, sir, if your honor please, te tam rashkel has kilt my tog, and a capital tog he was, sir.

Justice.—Well, Hons, what you want for te dog?

Hons.—Te tog, to be sure, wasent wort a tam cant; maur, howsomever, as he kilt him as he did, I mean to kit all what I can—I will have te full vally of him.

Justice.—Well, Stoffle, you hear what Hons says. How you kilt his tog?—what you got to say to dat?

Stoffle.—To pe, sure I tid kill te tam little tog; put, py my blixim, he can't prove it; and, since he has sute me as he tid, I won't pay never a copper—not by my zeel.

Justice.—My judgment is dat Hons shall pay de cost of de writ, and Stoffle shall pay de cost of dis judgment. So, poys, you may go home.

HOME AFFAIRS.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Alexandria meeting for retrocession—At a meeting of the citizens of Alexandria county, at the court house of the said county, on Monday, the 14th of December, 1818, pursuant to the request of a committee appointed by the Grand Jury, to take into consideration the subject of receding the town and county of Alexandria to the territory and jurisdiction of Virginia—James H. Hooe, esq. was called to the chair, and Alexander Moore appointed secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted by the meeting:

Whereas it is understood that the Congress of the United States have, under the recommendation of the President, taken into consideration the situation of the District of Columbia—it is, therefore,

Resolved, That it is inexpedient to act on the recommendation of the Grand Jury of the county of Alexandria, until the result of the report of the committee of Congress for the District of Columbia on this subject can be ascertained, further than to declare, as the sense of this meeting, that a local legislature or government for the district will be wholly incompetent to secure any of the benefits expected to be derived from it—and will be particularly incompatible with the interests of the county of Alexandria

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be

transmitted, by the chairman of this meeting, to the chairman of the committee of the District of Columbia.

The meeting then adjourned.

JAMES H. HOOPE, Chairman.

Test, ALEXANDER MOORE, Secretary.

Congress of the United States.

SENATE.

Friday, December 11.

Mr. Roberts, from the committee of claims, made an unfavorable report on the petition of James H. Clark, a purser in the navy, praying reimbursement of public money stolen from him.

Mr. Tait presented the memorial of the Legislature of the territory of Alabama, petitioning for permission to form a constitution and state government, and to be admitted into the union on an equal footing with the original states, which memorial was referred to a select committee, composed of Messrs. Tait, Morrow, Williams, of Mississippi, Edwards, and Williams, of Tennessee, with instructions to bring in a bill pursuant to the prayer of the memorial.

Mr. Eppes, from the committee on finance, reported the bill from the House of Representatives, making a partial appropriation for the military service for 1819, and the bill was then read the third time, and passed by general consent.

The engrossed bill to settle the account of James Wilde, was read the third time, passed, and sent to the other House.

Monday, December 14.

Mr. Sanford laid on the table a resolution to instruct the judiciary committee to inquire what provisions are necessary to give effect to the laws of the United States in the State of Illinois.

The memorial of the Mississippi convention, praying an extension of the limits of that State, and the counter memorial of the legislative council of Alabama, both presented at the last session, were, on motion of Mr. Leake, referred to the committee appointed on the admission of Alabama into the union.

Mr. Tait presented the memorial of the legislative council of Alabama, praying certain alterations in their judicial system; also, a petition from Andrew Jackson and others, proprietors of land in the northern district of Alabama territory, praying the adoption of measures by Congress for the improvement of the navigation of the Tennessee river at the Muscle Shoals; which were severally referred.

The resolution offered some time since, by Mr. Lacock, to refer the documents on the Seminole war, was, on the motion of Mr. Lacock, postponed to Wednesday next.

The resolution submitted by Mr. Mellen, on Friday, was taken up and agreed to.

The bill for the relief of Matthew Barrow was read the third time and passed.

Mr. Eaton submitted a resolution for the appointment of a committee to inquire what amendments are necessary to the existing laws, the more effectually to prevent the importation of slaves into the United States.

Mr. King submitted the following motion for consideration:

Resolved, That the committee of finance be and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the expediency of such alteration in the laws concerning the coasting trade, as shall authorize ships

and vessels of twenty tons and upwards, licensed to trade between the different districts of the United States, to carry on such trade between the said districts, in the manner, and subject only to the regulations, required to be observed in carrying on trade from district to district in the same State, or from a district in one State to a district in the next adjoining State.

The bill for the relief of Mehitable Cole, and the bill for the relief of William Barton, were respectively ordered to a third reading.

The engrossed bill to increase the compensation of the Surveyor of the port of Patuxet, was read the third time and passed, and sent to the other House for concurrence.

Tuesday, December 15.

The resolutions submitted yesterday by Mr. Sanford, by Mr. Eaton, and by Mr. King, were respectively taken up and agreed to.

The bill respecting the transportation of persons of color, for sale, &c. was taken up and referred to Messrs. Eaton, Burrill, Smith, Macon, and Horsey; the committee appointed in pursuance of the resolution adopted on this day, on motion of Mr. Eaton.

The joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution in the election of Presidential electors, &c. was reported by Mr. Dickerson, from the select committee appointed on the subject, with some amendments, not affecting the principle.

Mr. Fromentin submitted the following motion:

Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of extending the right to a bounty in lands to the soldiers who were enlisted to serve in the company of bombardiers, sappers and miners, and in the corps of ordnance.

The bill for the relief of Mehitable Cole, and the bill for the relief of William Barton, were severally read the third time, passed, and returned to the other House.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. J. J. Monroe, his private Secretary, transmitting the documents referred to in his message of the 17th ultimo, and not heretofore communicated.

Wednesday, December 16.

Mr. Sandford laid on the table the following motion:

Resolved, That the committee of commerce and manufactures consider and report what provisions may be proper for obtaining more accurate statements of the annual exports and imports of the United States.

Mr. Lacock submitted the following:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to lay before the Senate, copies of the correspondence between the government of the United States and the government of Spain relative to the Seminole war, and the execution of Arbuthnot and Ambrister; and also copies of the correspondence between the government of the United States and general Andrew Jackson, on the subject of the destruction of the Chehaw village, and the conduct of capt. Wright on that occasion; together with the copies of the correspondence of this government with governor Rabun of Georgia, on that subject; or such parts thereof, as, in the opinion of the President, may be communicated with safety to the government.

The resolutions offered yesterday by Mr. Stokes

and by Mr. Fromentin, were severally considered and agreed to.

The bills from the other House, giving to the representatives of Commodore Preble, and the crew of the brig Syren, certain prize money; and for granting five years' half pay pension to the widows of militia men who died within four months after their return home, of sickness contracted while in service; were severally read the second time, and referred.

Mr. King presented the memorial of the religious society of Friends in New York, petitioning Congress to extend to the Indian tribes further protection and instruction, &c. which was referred.

The bill providing for the better organization of the U. States' courts, and for the appointment of circuit judges, was postponed to this day week.

Mr. Eppes, from the committee of finance, reported a bill for the relief of Lewis and Antoine Dequindre; which passed to a second reading.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the joint resolution for amending the Constitution, and agreed to the amendment reported by Mr. Dickerson, from the select committee.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, December 11.

Mr. Williams made a favorable report on the petition of col. Isaac Clark, accompanied by a bill for the relief of col. Clark, and the officers and soldiers under his command, at the time of making an inroad into the country of the enemy during the late war; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Poindexter made a report, recommending the rejection of the prayer of the petition of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, respecting the settlers on certain public lands in the district of Shawneetown; which was concurred in.

Mr. Poindexter also reported a bill explanatory of the act "for the final adjustment of land titles in the State of Louisiana and territory of Missouri;" which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Middleton made a favorable report on the petition of Marquis de Vienne, accompanied by a bill making provision for the claim; which was twice read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Williams, of Connecticut, the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims were instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the payment of pensions, when the pensioner, by reason of insanity or other cause, is legally incapable of performing the acts necessary to entitle him to receive the same.

On motion of Mr. Newton, the committee of commerce and manufactures were instructed to inquire whether any, and if any, what alterations or modifications are required in the several acts of Congress establishing ports of entry and delivery.

On motion of Mr. Barber, the committee on public lands were instructed to inquire into the expediency of procuring the field notes and plats of the reserved sections within the Ohio company's purchase.

On motion of Mr. Herrick, the committee on public lands were instructed to inquire whether the act, entitled "an act for changing the compensation of receivers and registers of the land offices," approved on the 20th of April, 1818, requires any amendment, and if so, what amendment is necessary to be made to the said act.

On motion of Mr. Simkins, the committee on the subject of revolutionary pensions were instructed to inquire how far it may be expedient to amend the law, passed during the first session of the fifteenth Congress, granting pensions to revolutionary officers and soldiers, so as to prevent frauds in the reception of pensions by pretended agents of, and in the names of, pensioners, who shall have died, after having, once or oftener, received their pensions.

Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, after recalling the recollection of the House to the fact, that, at the session before the last, he had proposed a resolution for the reduction of the army, announced his intention to renew that proposition. He had waited in the hope that some gentleman better qualified to sustain it should make the motion: in that hope, he had so far waited at the present session. No one having undertaken what he now conceived his duty; he moved

"That the committee on military affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of reducing the army of the United States."

Mr. W. not wishing to hurry the motion, it was, at his request, ordered to lie on the table.

The bill for authorizing the settlement of the accounts of James Wilde, and the resolve for a survey of the coast of North Carolina, &c. were received from the Senate, twice read and committed.

The bill authorizing the distribution of a sum of money among the representatives of the late Commodore Edward Preble, &c. passed through a committee of the whole. [The object of this bill was explained by Mr. Pleasants. It is to allow the usual proportion of prize money for the brig Syren, captured for a breach of blockade by our squadron off Tripoli, in 1804, and taken at that time into the service of the United States, but subsequently sold at a reduced price.] The bill was, without opposition, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Monday, December 14.

Mr. Robertson, from the same committee to whom was referred the petition of the claimants under Bastrop's grant, stated that the committee had duly investigated the subject, and had made up a decisive opinion against the claim; which having been intimated to the petitioner's agent, he had preferred that a detailed report on the case should not be made, but that he should have leave to withdraw the papers relative to the claim.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. J. J. Monroe, his Secretary, transmitting, in compliance with a resolution of this House, a report of the Secretary of War, embracing the correspondence which took place between the governor of Georgia, and major-general Andrew Jackson, respecting the arrest, &c. of Obed Wright: which was referred to the military committee.

Mr. Hopkinson submitted a motion requesting the President to lay before the House, if he should not deem it improper to do so, copies of any instructions which have been given to the Minister of the United States at Madrid, relative to the late proceedings of the army of the United States in Florida.

This proposition was objected to by Mr. Poindexter as proposing an unusual course, and one not properly within the province of this House, but rather of the Senate—the treaty-making power.

er. To obviate this objection, the word *correspondence* was substituted by consent of Mr. Hopkinson, who considered the objection rather one of form than substance, for the word *instructions*; and the resolution was otherwise conformed to this amendment.

Having been so amended, on a suggestion of Mr. Rich, the propriety of waiting to see whether the information desired would not be comprised in the communication on the subject of our relations with Spain, promised in the President's message at the commencement of the session; and after some conversation on that point

The motion of Mr. Hopkinson was ordered to lie on the table.

The engrossed bill for granting a sum of money to the representatives of Commodore Edward Preble, was read a third time and passed.

Tuesday, December 15

Mr. H. Nelson, from the committee on the Judiciary, who were instructed to inquire into the expediency of holding the Courts of the United States alternately at Cincinnati, and such other place as may be hereafter designated by law, made a report against the proposition; which was ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Secretary of War, in obedience to a resolution of this House of the 17th April last, directing him to report whether any, and if any, what reduction may be made in the military peace establishment of the United States, with safety to the public service; and whether any, and if any, what change ought to be made in the ration, and in the mode of issuing it; and, also, a system for the establishment of a commissariat for the army.

Mr. Colston offered for consideration the following resolution, prefacing it with the remark, that, as the subject of the Seminole war was one which considerably agitated the public mind, and on which every member of the House, and the whole community, were desirous of all the light which could be thrown on it, he should make no apology for this motion:

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to lay before this House any correspondence which may have taken place between this government and that of Great Britain, relative to the execution of Arbuthnot and Ambrister.

On motion of Mr. Rich, who thought such a motion premature until the information promised in the President's message should have been laid before the House, the resolution was ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Newton, the committee on commerce and manufactures were directed to inquire into the expediency of erecting a light house on Windmill Point, at the mouth of the Rappahannock river, and also of placing a floating light on Willoughby Shoals, between Lynnhaven bay and Hampton roads.

On motion of Mr. Poindexter, the committee on public lands were instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting the several islands in the Tennessee river, lying within the limits of the Alabama territory, for the improvement of the navigation of the said river.

The committee of commerce and manufactures were, on motion of Mr. Hitchcock, instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a port

of entry at the mouth of Grand river, in the county of Geauga, and State of Ohio.

On motion of Mr. Hall, of N. C. the committee on the post-office were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a mail boat to ply between Washington, N. C. and Shell Castle Island, N. C.

The engrossed bill authorizing the extension of the pensions to the widows and orphans of the militia who fell in battle or died in service during the late war, for five years longer, was read a third time.

The final question on the passage of the bill was decided as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Anderson, Pa. Anderson, Ky. Baldwin, Barber, Ohio, Beecher, Beisinger, Bloomfield, Blount, Bledsoe, Butler, Lou. Colston, Connislock, Cook, Cruger, Davidson, Earle, Ireta, S. C. Floyd, Fuller, Gage, Gilbert, Harrison, Hendricks, Herbert, Heckinger, Herrick, Heister, Hitchcock, Holmes, Hostetter, Hubbard, Irving, N. Y. Johnson, Ky. Jones, Kinsey, Lewis, Lincoln, Little, McLean, W. McLean, Mercer, Middleton, Robt. Moore, Saml. Moore, Mansford, Murray, H. Nelson, T. M. Nelson, Nesbitt, New, Newman, Ogilby, Palmer, Parrott, Patterson, Pawling, Pindall, Pleasant, Poindexter, Porter, Quarles, Rhea, Ringgold, Robertson, Rogers, Sampson, Schuyler, Sergeant, Settle, Silsbee, B. Smith, Alex. Smith, Storrs, Trimble, Tucker, S. C. Walker, N. C. Walker, Ky. Wallace, Wendover, Whiteside, Whitman, Wilkin.—82.

NAYS.—Messrs. Abbot, Adams, Allen, Mass. Austin, Ball, Barbour, Va. Bassett, Bateman, Bailey, Bennett, Bos, Bryan, Butler, N. H. Campbell, Clagett, Claiborne, Cobb, Crafts, Cushman, Darlington, Desha, Edwards, Ellicott, Garnett, Hall, Des. Hall, N. C. Harbrouck, Hogg, Hopkinson, Hunter, Huntington, Johnson, Va. Richard, Lawyer, Lhu. Livermore, W. P. Maclay, McCoy, Marchand, Mason, Mass. Mason, R. L. Merrill, Milt. Morton, Moseley, Jer. Nelson, Orin, Owen, Pegram, Pitkin, Rice, Rich, Richards, Ruggles, Savage, Sawyer, Scudder, Sherwood, Sinkins, Slocumb, S. Smith, J. S. Smith, Speed, Stewart, N. C. Strother, Tallmadge, Tarr, Taylor, Terry, Tompkins, Townsend, Tucker, Va. Upham, Waterie, Williams, Conn. Williams, N. Y. Wilson, Mass. Wilson, Pa.—79.

So the bill was passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

A message was received from the President of the United States, by Mr. J. J. Monroe, his Secretary, the same as that received in Senate, which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Hopkinson then called up the resolution which he yesterday submitted, calling on the President for certain documents connected with our relations with Spain.

The Speaker suggested that the message just received probably embraced the correspondence the gentleman had in view by his motion.

Mr. Hopkinson intimated that he believed it did not.

Mr. Holmes proposed to modify the resolution, in a manner which he thought would meet the object of the gentleman, and be free from any objection, so as to read as follows:

"That the President be requested to cause to be communicated to this House, such further correspondence and proceedings in relation to our affairs with Spain, as in his opinion it shall not be inconsistent with the public interest to divulge."

Mr. Hopkinson accepted this modification.

Mr. Holmes then said he was in favor of the resolution. He should not go into a detail of the particular reasons why he was in favor of the motion; but the committee of foreign relations had thought a call of this kind to be necessary, and he hoped the House would grant it.

The resolve was agreed to, *nem. con.* and a committee appointed to present the resolution to the Senate.

The remainder of the day was occupied on the following bills:

A bill to incorporate a company to build a bridge over the eastern branch of Potomac, from

the southern extremity of eleventh street east, in the city of Washington.

A bill for the relief of Thomas B. Farish.

A bill for the relief of Samuel H. Harper.

Which severally passed through committees of the whole, and were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Wednesday, December 16

Mr. Rhea, from the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims, made unfavorable reports on the petitions of Philip Thomas, Joseph Gillpatrick, and Sarah Ingram; the two first of which were agreed to, and the latter ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Smith, of Md. from the committee of ways and means, made an unfavorable report on the petition of Elijah Brown, praying his still-tax may be refunded, in consequence of being prevented from using the same by his distiller being called out in the militia: and the report was referred to the committee of the whole.

Mr. S. also made an unfavorable report on the petition of William Houston, a deputy collector of internal revenue in Pennsylvania, praying to be allowed and paid the sum of 220 dollars, enclosed by him, and put into the post office, directed to the principal surveyor; which was concurred in.

Mr. S. also made an unfavorable report on the petition of William Stothart, who prays relief from penalty incurred by the importation of certain foreign goods contrary to law into the port of Philadelphia; which was concurred in.

Mr. Williams, of North Carolina, made an unfavorable report on the petition of Richard Frisby, who prays compensation for a house destroyed by the British army, in Kent county, Md. which was read, and referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. W. also made an unfavorable report on the petition of Herman B. Potter, Gillman Pultun, jr. and others, of the State of New York, petitioners of the class of the Niagara claims, for property destroyed by the enemy during the late war; and it was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Poindexter, from the committee of public lands, reported a bill to extend the bounty in land to soldiers of the revolutionary army who were on furlough at the close of the war; and the bill was read and committed.

Mr. P. also reported a bill making a donation of land to the State of Illinois, for the seat of government of that State; which was read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Robertson, the committee on private land claims were discharged from the further consideration of the petition of P. Barribeau, and he had leave to withdraw his memorial.

Mr. Johnson, of Ky. reported a bill providing for the payment of property lost or destroyed during the late Seminole war; and also a bill for the relief of Harvey Wakefield; which were read and committed.

On motion of Mr. Poindexter, the Secretary of the Treasury was requested to lay before the House a statement of the tracts of land reserved for the establishment of towns in the Alabama territory, a statement of the prices at which they have been sold, &c.

Mr. Clagett, of N. H. after a few explanatory remarks, offered the following for consideration:

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to designate and set apart — townships, each of six miles square, in

the state of Illinois, east of the military bounty lands, each alternate section whereof to be settled by emigrants from Ireland, and sold to them at two dollars per acre, to be paid by three instalments, as follows, to wit: one third part thereof at the end of four years, one third part thereof at the end of eight years, and the residue thereof at the end of twelve years from the day of sale, with interest on said several sums: Provided, first, that the said Secretary of the Treasury may, and it shall be his duty to reject all applications of such emigrants for the land aforesaid, unless the applicants shall have been satisfactorily recommended as moral and industrious men. Secondly, That no contract shall be made with any emigrant as aforesaid, unless he engage to improve at least twenty of each hundred acres to be transferred as aforesaid, and also to erect a suitable dwelling house and barn thereon. Thirdly, That no contract shall be binding upon the United States, nor title vest in any emigrant settler, until he shall have made the settlement and improvements aforesaid, and fully paid for the land contracted for as aforesaid. Fourthly, That no such contract shall be made, nor a patent issue to any one settler or his heirs, for more than — acres of land. Fifthly, That in every instance where the conditions of settlement, improvement or payment, shall not have been fully complied with at the expiration of the term of twelve years from the date of such contract, the said premises, so forfeited, shall revert to the United States, and the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause the same to be sold for the benefit of the United States: Provided, nevertheless, That, in all cases where payment in part shall have been made, the sum or sums so paid shall be refunded to such emigrant or his heirs.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed and instructed to prepare and report a bill embracing the subject matter, and in pursuance of the foregoing resolution.

On the question, to proceed to the consideration of the said resolution, it was decided in the negative, by a large majority.

Mr. Tarr, of Pa. offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on roads and canals be instructed to inquire into the expediency of appropriating the sum of — dollars, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, for the purpose of further completing that part of the turnpike road between Cumberland, in the state of Maryland, and Wheeling, in the state of Virginia, and pledging, for the repayment thereof, the two per cent. fund arising from sales of the public lands northwest of the river Ohio, and that the committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

This motion Mr. T. supported by a few remarks, explanatory of his object.

On the question to agree to the same, it was decided in the negative, 55 to 54.

On motion of Mr. Walker, of N. C. the committee of military affairs were instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for allowing an equal bounty in lands, as to other soldiers, to all minors who enlisted in the military service during the late war, who continued in service till peace was concluded, and were regularly discharged.

Mr. Robertson, of Ky. offered for consideration the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed, to inquire into the expediency of establishing a separate territorial government in that part of the now territory of Missouri, lying south of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, which is called the Arkansas country, and which is not included in the proposed boundary of the projected state of Missouri, by the bill now before the house, for the purpose of establishing a state government in part of the territory of Missouri; and that the said committee have leave to report by bill.

The motion was agreed to without opposition.

The engrossed bill for the relief of Thomas B. Farish; the engrossed bill for the relief of Samuel H. Harper; and the engrossed bill for the incorporation of a company for making a bridge across the Eastern Branch, from between 11th and 12th streets, in Washington city, were severally read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

The bill providing for the payment of certain bills drawn by Wm. Morgan, &c. under the treaty with France, passed through a committee of the whole, Mr. Pleasants in the chair; and, being explained and supported by Mr. Smith, of Md. was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill for the relief of Mr. Ball, of the Northern Neck of Virginia, allowing him 1400 dollars for a house destroyed by the British, during the war, in consequence of its having been occupied by our troops, passed through a committee of the whole, Mr. Smith, of Md. in the chair, and was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill to regulate ships and vessels, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Thursday, December 17.

Mr. Nelson, from the judiciary committee, reported a bill concerning the marshal and district Attorney of the western district of Pennsylvania and clerk of the eastern district of Pennsylvania, which was read and referred to a committee of the whole.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from Heman Allen, a member of this House, stating that circumstances have induced him to resign his seat as a representative from Vermont.

The Speaker also laid before the House a letter from the secretary of the navy, transmitting, in pursuance of a resolution of the House, a particular statement of the expenditures of sundry appropriations to reward officers and crews for the capture of vessels from the enemy during the late war; which was ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law for tall treasury notes.

On motion of Mr. Sergeant,

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire whether and what further powers are necessary to enable the accounting officers of the United States to settle and adjust accounts of long standing, where, from loss of vouchers or other known cause, no additional evidence can be expected.

On motion of Mr. Silsbee,

Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing goods, on which the duty have been paid or secured, to be transported coastwise, to one or more districts within the United States, without loss or debenture.

On motion of Mr. Herrick,

Resolved, That the committee on the public lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of so amending the act to enable the people of the Indiana territory to form a Constitution and State government, as to authorize the selection of lands granted to the State for the purpose of fixing their seat of government in quarter sections, and fractions, as the legislature of the state may direct.

On motion of Mr. Scott, the secretary of the treasury was directed to lay before the House the instructions given by him to the boards of commissioners appointed by the act of 1803, under the eighth section of the act of the 21st April, 1806.

The engrossed bill for regulating payments to military pensioners, was read a third time.

Mr. Rich moved to recommit the bill, with a view to amend it so as to reconcile some of its provisions with existing laws on the subject of pensions, with which he thought, as the bill now stood, they were inconsistent.

Mr. Taylor seconded the motion, and stated particular cases of exceptions to any general provisions on this subject, which appeared to him to require a revision of this bill.

The question was then taken on recommitment, and decided in the affirmative.

The engrossed bill to regulate passenger ships and vessels; the engrossed bill directing the payment of certain bills drawn by Gen. Armstrong, in favor of William Morgan; and the engrossed bill for the relief of Dr. Mottrum Ball, were severally read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Mr. Little, from the joint committee on the subject of the printing for the House, reported a joint resolution, directing the secretary and clerk of each House to cause the printing to be distributed among such printers as shall be best able to expedite it, giving a preference to the present contractor; which was agreed to on the part of this House.

The documents lately laid before the House by the President, were then ordered to be printed.

EDITOR'S CABINET.

History of Congress.—Since our last number there have been no discussions in Congress of any great consequence. On Monday there was some debate on the bill to extend, for a further term of five years, the pensions granted to the widows and orphans of those militia who died or fell in battle during the late war. The principle of the bill was warmly contested, and on the question of ordering it to be engrossed for a third reading it had a narrow escape, the majority in favor of it being only one. On Tuesday it passed the House by 82 votes to 79. In the Senate on Wednesday the bill for the relief of general Stark met with some opposition; but it finally passed to a third reading—29 to 6.

The leading questions which are likely to occupy the attention of Congress are still in embryo. There is a great body of documentary information before the two Houses from the Executive, with which we shall make our readers acquainted in due time.